

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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January 30, 2009

Honorable Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), we invite your participation in a series of Regional Tribal Water Plenary meetings (Plenaries) in preparation for a California Tribal Water Summit (Summit) for August 26 and 27, 2009, in Sacramento. The theme of the Summit is "Protect Our Sacred Waters."

These events are taking place in concert with the California Water Plan Update 2009.

The Tribal Water Summit will provide an opportunity for the highest Tribal and State government officials to explore common interests, discuss policy issues, identify solutions, and promote dialogue among agencies and programs responsible for water resources management in California. Tribal and State governments can benefit from a clear understanding of how they can work together to address pressing issues like emergency response to flooding, prolonged drought, rising sea levels, and climate change. A desired outcome of the Summit is to formulate a declaration and chart a "roadmap" with strategies for preserving Native water rights and providing for the sustainable management of the sacred water resources for all of California.

With your support, we plan to schedule up to six Tribal Water Plenaries throughout the state. The agendas will be designed to discuss effective planning and management of water resources in your region, raise issues of water priorities impacting Native communities, and formulate critical agenda topics for the Summit. Therefore, your involvement in the Plenaries is very important for the Summit to be a truly historic event. The Tribal Plenaries and Summit will help to ensure that the water access, use and priorities of Native Peoples and Nations are recognized and well preserved in California's strategic water planning efforts.

In the coming weeks and months, DWR will be requesting your help in organizing these meetings. If you have any questions or would like to help convene a Tribal Water Plenary or participate in the planning of the Tribal Water Summit, please contact Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager of DWR's Statewide Integrated Water Management, at (916) 651-9202 or [kamyarg@water.ca.gov](mailto:kamyarg@water.ca.gov). Additional contact information is provided on the enclosed page.

With respect,

The California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team  
California Water Plan Update 2009

and

A handwritten signature of Mark W. Cowin, Deputy Director of the Department of Water Resources, is written over a horizontal line.

Mark W. Cowin, Deputy Director  
Department of Water Resources

Enclosure

## Additional Information

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov>

The idea of a Tribal Water Summit emerged from the work of the Tribal Communication Committee that was established by DWR in 2007. In a groundbreaking accomplishment, the Committee, consisting of individual tribal members from around the state, released a Tribal Communication Plan in the summer of 2008 to help and guide state agencies more effectively communicate with tribes and Native communities. It was through the efforts of this committee and their outreach and consultation within their respective tribal communities that the 2009 California Tribal Water Summit, "Protect Our Sacred Water," became an important strategy for protecting and advancing water issues of Native Peoples.

### Meeting Schedules:

Up to six regional water plenary meetings will take place from March through June 2009.

- The first will cover the Southern Central Valley region, and be held from 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m on Wednesday, March 4, at the South Fork Women's Club in Weldon.
- At present it is anticipated that a second plenary meeting will also be held in March, one in April, one in May, and the final two in June.

### Meeting Locations:

The proposed Plenaries will focus on the Tribal water issues in the following regions:

- (1) Southern Central Valley
- (2) North Coast
- (3) Far Northern California (likely location: Redding)
- (4) Central California
- (5) Colorado River-Owens Valley (likely location: Bishop)
- (6) Southern California (location: Temecula)

### Contact Information:

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